



State of Wisconsin • DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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Wisconsin's Tax Rankings Drop to Lowest Levels in Nearly 50 Years

Governor Doyle's Tax Policies Over Last Seven Years Have Improved State's Tax Rankings

Wisconsin's state and local tax ranking has dropped to its lowest level since 1961, according to an annual report released today by the Department of Revenue.

"We have worked hard year after year to hold the line on taxes and lower Wisconsin's tax ranking through deliberate policies set forth by Governor Doyle," Revenue Secretary Roger Ervin said. "As other states increased taxes in the face of tough budgets, Governor Doyle held the line on taxes and provided tax cuts that will total \$3.7 billion for businesses, middle class families and senior citizens. The Governor lowered our state's tax rankings while providing for priorities like education, health care and economic development."

The report on Wisconsin state and local government tax rankings shows that Wisconsin ranks 15th among the states as measured by taxes per \$1,000 personal income and ranks 21st on a per capita basis - the lowest since Wisconsin adopted the general sales tax. Wisconsin's rankings are their lowest in nearly 50 years and have improved for six consecutive years, unprecedented in state history. When considering all revenue sources, Wisconsin ranks 24th per \$1,000 personal income and 25th per capita.

In addition, a recently released Ernst and Young study prepared for the Council on State Taxation shows Wisconsin's business tax ranking now ranks 30th - well below the national average.

Before Governor Doyle took office in 2003, Wisconsin was ranked 4th in the country in state and local taxes and had not been out of the Top 10 in 22 years. Wisconsin had also been ranked in the Top 5 for state and local taxes for 5 out of the 6 previous years when Governor Doyle took office. From 1991 to 2003, Wisconsin had been ranked no lower than 7th nationally. By 2005, the state's ranking had dropped to 11th.

The DOR tax report is available at <http://www.revenue.wi.gov/ra/10txrank.pdf>

The Council on State Taxation report is available at http://cst.informz.net/cst/archives/archive_730847.html

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